

Amendments

Please amend the above-identified U.S. application as follows:

In The Specification

Please amend the portions of the specification as indicated by the following marked up versions thereof:

Please insert the following paragraph beginning on page 1, line 3, immediately preceding the words "FIELD OF THE INVENTION":

--This application claims priority to PCT/EP2003/009436 entitled *Metallic Bath Containment Device between the Crystallising Rollers of a Continuous Casting Machine*, filed on 26 August 2003, which claims priority to Italian Patent Application No. MI2002A001853, filed on 27 August 2002.--